Dear All,

A big welcome to Nasrine Seraji as Head of the Department of Architecture. The academic and professional world we all inhabit in Asia is full of great opportunities and I am looking forward to working with Nasrine in realizing more of these opportunities for DoA colleagues and students. DoA has had a rough ride in many respects in recent years, but its staff and students are among the world’s best and the future is very bright indeed. Much will depend on pulling together in a professional and collegial manner. We are very fortunate to have attracted Nasrine to HKU and I am sure everyone will give her their full allegiance as she works her magic.

Also, many congratulations to Steve Rowlinson for being appointed Chair Professor. This is a unique HK way of recognizing global excellence and leadership among its full professors (all of whom are doing internationally significant work in their fields).

I am happy to say that the cross-departmental OBORobs team made it safely back from Bangladesh. In 30 years of visiting the developing world’s spontaneously organizing cities I have never been in a city where both property/land markets and government has so poorly served their customers with housing. Bangladesh is one of the poorest countries in the world (only three above North Korea and just behind Western Sahara) but in places, Dhaka’s property prices match Manhattan. How can this be? That was the research question we sought to address in a few days of site visits. The answer was clear. Public and private agencies have difficulties assembling land in sufficiently large blocks to entice people away from central city districts. This is due to a potent mixture of high rural land conversion costs - the city is surrounded by deltaic landscape (Dorothy Tang was the landscape expert) that needs 50 square meters of sand per 1 square meter of buildable land; lack of interest by government in building new towns; lack of trunk infrastructure development into the ex-urbs (until very recently); a dysfunctional democracy that means politicians serve business interests; but a failure by government to supply even the business interests with coordinated infrastructure investment that would make land development more profitable for them. And of course, corruption. Having said that, there’s nothing more stimulating and rewarding for urban academics to visit a place that clearly needs their ideas in order to move on. Most cities of the world work one way or another – either by strong government planning or a well organized and responsive private property development industry that provides its own planning. If we want to, FoA/ HKUrbanLab has a huge
amount to offer this city. Our hosts were very warm and welcoming and the intellectual
dialogue on all matters from landscape, land management, building design, urban
fiscal policy, infrastructure, slum policy, urban morphology and transport planning was
enlightened and high quality. Watch this space. Talk to Rebecca Chiu if you are
interested in joining the OBORobs team.

Congratulations to colleagues for the achievements listed below. A formal welcome to
the AUHI (Architecture, Urbanism and Humanities Initiative), the latest
HKUrbanLab research cluster (with a self-explanatory name).

Chris

Teaching and other Achievements

Faculty of Architecture (FoA)

1. Professor Nasrine Seraji

   - Is appointed as the Head of the Department of Architecture for three years,
     from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2019.

2. Professor Steve Rowlinson

   - Is conferred the title of Chair Professor with effect from 1 July 2015.
1. CRIOCM International Conference

- Collaborated with the Chinese Research Institute of Construction Management (CRIOCM), Professor Chris Webster (Chairman of the conference organizing team), Professor K.W. Chau (Chairman of the conference organizing team) and Dr. Wilson Lu (Executive Chairman of the conference organizing team) have organized the CRIOCM 2016 21st International Conference on “Advancement of Construction Management and Real Estate” on 14th -17th December, 2016 at the University of Hong Kong. This international conference is also co-hosted by the Ronald Coase Centre for Property Rights Research (RCCPRR) and the Hong Kong Urban Laboratory (HKUrbanLab).

The conference offered an international platform for knowledge and technology exchange in real estate, architecture and construction management. From all accounts, the conference was very well received by experts from industry, public sector and academia from all over the world. In total, the conference has received more than 150 high quality papers and attracted more than 190 international participants who came China, USA, UK, Australia, Netherland, Japan, Africa, Malaysia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Turkey, and so on.

The conference organizing team would like to take this opportunity to thank all faculty members who have provided great support to the conference by playing the roles of committee members, session chairs, advisers, and so on. Without your involvement, the conference would not have been a success!
2. HKIS – Outstanding Final Year Dissertation Award 2016

- The panel of assessors has awarded prizes to the following Undergraduate and Research Postgraduate students.

Dr. Wang Hongdi (Class of 2015 PhD graduate) has won in the Postgraduate Student Category.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Name of Awardee</th>
<th>Thesis Title</th>
<th>Supervisor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Final Year Thesis Award</td>
<td>Dr. Wang Hongdi</td>
<td>The interplay of formal and informal institutions for procurement innovation: A social network approach</td>
<td>Dr. Wilson Lu</td>
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Four UG students have won the Top Award and another one has won the Second Award.

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<thead>
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<tr>
<td>General Practice Surveying</td>
<td>Li Chun Yee</td>
<td>The Impacts of Information Asymmetry and Individual Visit Scheme on the Rent and Vacancy Rate Adjustment Process in the Hong Kong Retail Property Market</td>
<td>Professor K.W. Chau</td>
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<td>- Top Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property and Facility Management</td>
<td>Lee Wai Man</td>
<td>A Mixed Methods Study on Principles of Deterring Bid-Rigging for Building Works with Multiple Ownerships in Hong Kong using the Fraud Triangle Framework</td>
<td>Dr. Isabelle Chan</td>
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<td>Property and Facility Management - Top Award</td>
<td>Tom Tsz Hin Felix</td>
<td>The Moderating Effect of Neighborhood Environment on the Indoor Environment-Occupant Satisfaction and Health Relationships in Green Buildings: A Case Study Approach Incorporating Subjective and Objective Measurements</td>
<td>Dr. Isabelle Chan</td>
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<td>Quantity Surveying - Top Award</td>
<td>Tse Tung</td>
<td>A Practical and Modern Approach to BIM Application for Quantity Surveying in Hong Kong</td>
<td>Dr. Wilson Lu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building Surveying - Second Award</td>
<td>Hui Put</td>
<td>BIM-based building approval e-submission in Hong Kong: prospects and challenges</td>
<td>Dr. Wilson Lu</td>
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3. Dr. Wilson Lu

- Was appointed as external examiner of PhD in Dept. of Building and Real Estate (BRE), the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and attended the viva held on 9 Dec 2016.

- Awarded the Teaching Development Grant (TDG) 2016 at an amount of HK$194,959 for the project entitled “Nurturing Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Team-based Courses through Gamification and Digital Credentialing (Project no. 16/636)”
1. 2016 APNHR Conference - Housing Issues in a New Epoch of Urbanization: Challenges and Opportunities

The 8th APNHR Conference was held at Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China from 17th to 19th December 2016. This conference attracted over 150 participants from 24 different countries and regions across six continents. This conference hosted 19 sessions and over 90 oral presentations covering broad and topical themes, such as high-density living, elderly housing, green housing and healthy living, residential mobility and big data in housing research.

The 8th APNHR Conference was co-organized by the Centre of Urban Studies and Urban Planning, The University of Hong Kong and the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Sun Yat-sen University. Guangdong Real Estate Association was the supporting organization. Dr. Shenjing He from the University of Hong Kong was the conference chair, while Prof. Yungang Liu from Sun Yat-sen University and Prof. Jie Chen of Shanghai University of Finance and Economics were vice conference chairs.

This conference invited six well-established scholars, practitioners and policymakers to deliver keynote speeches. Keynote speakers included Mr. Jun Feng (the Vice Director and Secretary-general of the China Real Estate Association), Prof. Chris Webster (Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, The University of Hong Kong), Prof. Edward G. Goetz (the Director of the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs at the University of Minnesota), Prof. Yosuke Hirayama (Professor of Housing and Urban Studies at Kobe University), Prof. Siqi Zheng (the Director of Hang Lung Center for Real Estate at Tsinghua University) and Prof. Rachelle Alterman (the Head of the Lab on Comparative Planning Law and Land Policy at the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology).

Convened by Prof. Rebecca L. H. Chiu (the Director of the Centre of Urban Studies and Urban Planning, The University of Hong Kong), a roundtable discussion themed ‘Gated Communities – Controversial to Whom?’ was organized, with Prof. Rebecca L. H. Chiu, Prof. Edward G. Goetz, Prof. Rachelle Alterman, Prof. Chris Webster and Dr. Wan Nor Azriyati Wan Aziz as panel members.

During the conference, the organizing committee also arranged fieldtrip to one affordable housing estate (Fanghe Garden) and one commercial housing estate (Evergrande Royal Peninsula) on 17th December. Some overseas participants
visited UNESCO World Heritage Site-Kaiping Barbican and Villages on 19th December.

For more information, please visit APNHR website at http://fac.arch.hku.hk/upad/apnhr/.

2. Professor Anthony Yeh and Dr. Kenneth Tang

- Prof. Yeh and Dr. Tang have successfully organized the **10th Asia GIS Conference** with theme of “Future Smart Cities” that was held at the Rayson Huang Theatre of the University of Hong Kong from 5 to 7 January 2017. The Conference was organised by the Asia GIS Association, the Hong Kong GIS Association, the Centre of Urban Studies and Urban Planning, HKUrbanLab and the GIS Research Centre of the University of Hong Kong. It is co-organized by the Smart City Consortium with international support of Commission 3 – Spatial Management Information of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) and Commission on Geographical Information Science of the International Geographical Union (IGU) and other professional organizations in Hong Kong. The Conference was opened by the Hon. Nicholas W. Yang, Secretary for Innovation and Technology, HKSAR Government and followed by two keynote speeches by Professor Michael Batty, Fellow of Royal Society, and Professor of Bartlett School of Planning, University College London, UK; and Professor Deren Li, Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Chinese Academy of Engineering, and Professor of State Key Laboratory of Information Engineering in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing of Wuhan University, China. It was attended by over 170 participants from 13 countries and regions with a Technology Sharing Session
of 6 presentations by GIS developers, 75 paper presentations in 18 parallel sessions, 10 exhibition booths, and 1 book exhibition counter. In the Council Meeting of the Asia GIS Association held during the Conference, Prof. Anthony Yeh stepped down from being the President of the Association and became its Past President.

Opening Ceremony of the Conference by the Hon. Nicholas W. Yang, Secretary for Innovation and Technology, HKSAR Government, giving his Opening Address.
The Hon. Nicholas W. Yang, Secretary for Innovation and Technology, HKSAR Government presenting souvenir to Keynote Speaker, Professor Michael Batty, Fellow of Royal Society, and Professor of Bartlett School of Planning, University College London, UK.

The Hon. Nicholas W. Yang, Secretary for Innovation and Technology, HKSAR Government presenting souvenir to Keynote Speaker, Professor Deren Li, Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Chinese Academy of Engineering, and Professor of State Key Laboratory of Information Engineering in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing of Wuhan University, China.
3. Professor Anthony Yeh

- Professor Yeh is the recipient of the first batch of Nanyan Honorary Professorships of the Shenzhen Graduate School of Peking University together with Prof. Timothy John, Fellow of Royal Society (FRS), Hasib Sabbagh Professor of Systems Biology, Harvard Medical School, USA; Prof. Gehan Amaratunga, Fellow of Royal Academy of Engineering (FRAE), Professor of Engineering, Cambridge University, UK; and Prof. Zhenan Bao, Member of National Academy of Engineering (MNAE), Professor of Chemical Engineering, Stanford University, USA. The Nanyan Honorary Professorship was presented to him in the 15th Anniversary Ceremony the Shenzhen Graduate School of Peking University that was held in Shenzhen on 16 December 2016.
1. Gavin Coates
   - Is interviewed by "Perils For Pedestrians" Episode 244 - We find out what Hong Kong is like for pedestrians.
     
     https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXEXQmYglJ0 (12:06 - 21:17)

2. Scott Melbourne, Ivan Valin, and Vincci Mak
   - Presented a synthesis of student works to YCDC and Parks officials at Yangon City Hall as part of their ongoing Studio Yangon initiative.
Research Achievements

HKUrbanLab research groups

AUHI (Architecture, Urbanism and Humanities Initiative)

1. Dr. Cecilia L. Chu

- Presented a paper, entitled “Communities of Experts: Emergent Heritage Practices and the Reconfiguration of Power-Knowledge,” at the 15th Biennial Conference of the International Association for the Study of Traditional Environments (IASTE). The conference was co-hosted by the University of California, Berkeley and Kuwait University and was held in Kuwait City, Kuwait, from December 17-20, 2016.

   http://iaste.berkeley.edu/conferences/2016-conference/

- Dr. Chu also chaired a paper session, entitled “History and the Legitimacy of Historic Structures” for the conference and served as a member of the conference organising committee.

- Was invited to participate in the 3rd Docomomo Macau Seminar, entitled “Heritage Protection Strategies,” at the Institute of Tourism Studies, Macau, on December 2, 2016.

Centre for Chinese Architecture and Urbanism (CCAU)

1. A collaboration agreement has been signed between the Faculty and the Guangdong Province The People’s Government of Chang’an Town for a Joint Research Centre for Architecture and Cities. The signing ceremony and cocktail reception cum Cocktail Reception was held in the Faculty Conference Room on 19 December 2016.
1. Professor Rebecca Chiu

- Was the convenor and panel member of the Roundtable Discussion on “Gated Communities: Controversial to Whom?” held at the 2016 Asia-Pacific Network for Housing Research (APNHR) Conference, organized by CUSUP, FoA, HKU and Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China, 17–19 December 2016.

2. Professor Anthony Yeh

- Prof. Anthony Yeh presented a keynote speech on “Smart Technologies and Urban Management and Development” in the Opening Ceremony of the 4th Smart Spatial Information Services Conference organized by the State Key Laboratory of Information Engineering in Surveying, Mapping & Remote Sensing (LIESMARS) of Wuhan University and supported by China Association for Geographic Information Society in Wuhan, China, on 18 December 2016. It was attended by over 350 participants.

3. Dr. Shenjing He, Dr. Xingjian Liu, and Prof. Anthony Yeh

- Dr. He, Dr. Liu and Prof. Yeh, Co-Principal Investigators of the research proposal on “Advancing China’s Urbanization Inside Out: Urban Redevelopments in Chinese Cities Amidst Accelerated Urban Transition” with Prof. George C.S. of Department of Geography as Principal Investigator and Dr Zhiyong HU of the Education University of Hong Kong as Co-PI have obtained funding from the RGC’s 2016/17 Collaborative Research Fund (CRF) for 36 months.
4. Dr. Mandy Lau

- Presented a paper entitled “Mobilization around the issue of inadequate rental housing in Hong Kong” at the 2016 Asia-Pacific Network for Housing Research Conference, organized by CUSUP, FoA, HKU and Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China, 17–19 December 2016.

5. Mr. Zongcai Wei (Ph. D Candidate)

- Received the Winner of The Best Student Paper Runner-up for the paper entitled “Livability of subsidized housing estates in post-reform China: an institutional explanation” presented at the 2016 Asia-Pacific Network for Housing Research Conference, organized by CUSUP, FoA, HKU and Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China, 17–19 December 2016. His supervisor is Professor Rebecca Chiu.

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1. Dr. Fan Xue (Research Assistant Professor of REC)

- Dr. Fan and his co-authors won the only Best Paper Award of the Chinese Research Institute of Construction Management (CRIOCM) 21st International Conference. The winning entry is a paper “Xue, F., Chen, K., Liu, D., Niu, Y., and Lu, W.S. (2016). An optimization-based semantic building model generation method with a pilot case of a demolished construction. CRIOCM 2016 21st International Conference on Advancement of Construction Management and Real Estate, 14th–17th December 2016, Hong Kong, China.”

**Abstract:** Emerging technologies like massive point cloud from laser scanning and 3D photogrammetry enabled new ways of generating ‘as-built’ building information models (BIM) for existing buildings. It is valuable but also challenging to generate semantic models from point cloud and images in automated ways. In this paper, we present a novel method called Optimization-based Model Generation (OMG) for automated semantic BIM generation. OMG starts from a semantic BIM component dataset and a target measurement such as point cloud, photographs, or floor plans. A fitness function is defined to
measure the matching level between an arbitrary BIM model and the target measurement without object recognition. Combinations of digital components are then extensively generated as building models regarding semantic constraints. The fittest model that matches the target measurement best is the result of OMG. The proposed method was demonstrated in reconstructing a 3D model of a demolished building. Advantages of OMG include high-level automation, low requirement on measurement, relationship discovery for components, reusable component libraries, and scalability to new environments.

CRIOCM 2016 Conference Best Paper Award
(From Left to Right: Dr Frank Xue, Prof. K.W. Chau, and Dr Wilson Lu)

2. Professor Steve Rowlinson

- Was invited by the RIB Software AG to deliver a speech on ‘Integrated Project Delivery: Who Leads?’ at the iTWO World Conference on 16 November, 2016, at Four Seasons Hotel, Guangzhou, China.

- Was invited by the Gammon Construction Limited to deliver a speech on ‘Integrated Project Delivery: In Search of the Holy Grail’ at the Gammon BIM Conference on 17 November, 2016, at The Excelsior, Hong Kong.

- Was invited to deliver a speech on ‘Integrated Project Delivery: the way forward for construction’ at the REACH-eLink International Project Management Series Symposium on 3 December, 2016, in Shanghai, China. This symposium is cohosted by the University of Hong Kong (Shanghai Centre), RIB Software AG, The Real Estate Academy in China, and eLink Engineering Consulting (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.